

marveled at the stories of their dangerous missions to find the remains of our missing servicemen. They told me of operations done on treacherous mountaintops surrounded by landmines and unexploded ordnance. Intense jungle heat, hazardous weather conditions and insects and animals often made their jobs incredibly tough. In more turbulent times, they even encountered fire from across the Cambodia border. From my exposure to them, it was clear to me that these were truly remarkable men and women. It is a tragedy that we lost these brave soldiers.

I think it would be even more tragic if the important work they did was not remembered. They were proud of their mission, which they saw as a sacred duty. It was also a mission that brought our two nations closer together. Many of the Vietnamese who perished in the crash had been deeply involved for much of their lives in helping us find more answers about our missing. The cooperation and friendships forged by this work has only helped to heal the scars of a war that ended some 25 years ago.

These men were American heroes and we should remember their sacrifices as well as the Vietnamese who gave their lives in trying to answer the questions about our missing. My thoughts are with all of their families.

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REGARDING LUIS RENDON

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2001*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a unique patriot and beloved sports figure in Texas, and the nation, Luis M. Rendon.

He will be honored this Saturday, May 12, in Laredo by the International Latin Hall of Fame, a sports hall of fame focusing primarily on athletes of Hispanic origin, into which he was inducted several years ago. He underwent an operation for colon cancer recently,

and the Hall of Fame is putting on a party for him to welcome him home.

Luis Rendon is an amazing man who has had a lifelong love affair with sports, particularly baseball. He was a professional baseball umpire for 40 years. The International Latin Hall of Fame began in Laredo over 30 years ago. Each year, only a very few athletes are inducted. Luis Rendon is the first and only umpire inducted into this sports hall of fame.

As a professional umpire, Luis traveled all over the country, and all over the world. He has officiated at games in England, France, Germany, Mexico, as well as the United States. His services are still in demand, and he volunteers to teach umpires of Little League baseball.

As a veteran myself, I am an enormous fan of Luis Rendon, who has served this nation in uniform in three of the major wars fought by the United States in the 20th Century. He was drafted to serve in World War II and dropped out of school to go fight in the war. He would later serve in Korea and Vietnam before retiring in 1967 after 20 years of service in the United States Army.

Knowing the importance of an education and of setting an example for his children and others, Luis eventually got his GED, later obtaining an associate degree at what is now Laredo Community College at age 50.

He has always been intellectually curious. He is extremely proud of being a Mason, and was recently given an award for teaching other Masons.

He is wholly dedicated to the game of baseball and is a walking encyclopedia of baseball rules and trivia. He is a stickler for those rules and has always been committed to those rules. His philosophy is: if a rule is in the book, it is part of the game; if not, then it is not part of the game. Balls that hit birds or get stuck in the roof of a dome get no special consideration since those situations are not noted in the rules he so reveres.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Luis Rendon for the gift of his lifetime to the game of baseball and to the

young people in Texas, and elsewhere, he has taught about life through baseball.

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TRIBUTE TO RUBEN SIVERLING

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2001*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ruben Siverling, the recipient of the Clay/Platte Development Corporation's Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Siverling is a full-time business consultant serving on the staff at the Rockhurst University Small Business Development Center. During his years as a consultant to the Small Business Community in the Kansas City region, he has helped start or expand over 1,700 small businesses.

Mr. Siverling was instrumental in opening a satellite Small Business Development Center in the Missouri 6th District. Being a resident of the district, he saw firsthand the growth in the Northland region of Kansas City and understood the importance of a guiding presence to help the area's burgeoning entrepreneurs. His dedication to this cause is proven in the early mornings, long days and late evenings that he endures to help each and one of his clients achieve success. Success to him does not only involve just having a client receive a loan, but all facets of learning the start-up process. Whether it is revising a loan package that was not approved on the first submittal, or following through with revision and follow-up meetings, he ensures that the small business client is getting a first-class education that will help their business flourish.

I commend the Clay/Platte Development Corporation on choosing Mr. Reuben Siverling as their Small Business Advocate of the Year, and once again congratulate and thank Mr. Siverling for his years of hard work and dedication to the Small Business Community.